

Dry Law Held Big Factor in Wave of Crime

Theft Losses Are Doubled, Says Head of National Surety Co., Who Gives Figures of 30 Concerns

Underpolicing Is Charged

Believes Thieves' Loot in Year Was 100 Millions; Urges Life for Burglary

Prohibition was declared yesterday by William B. Joyce, president of the National Surety Company, to be one of the main causes of a tremendous increase in crime which has been sweeping the country. Underpolicing, he said, was one of twelve others.

Statistics of the claims paid by the thirty leading surety and burglary insurance companies of the nation, made public by Mr. Joyce, show that burglary within the last year has increased at least 100 per cent over the year before. In 1920 these companies paid out losses on embezzlements and burglaries of approximately \$16,000,000. More than \$10,000,000 of this constituted claims for burglary, as against \$5,000,000 for the previous year. This year, he asserted, it is worse than ever.

These figures, however, he pointed out, do not begin to tell the tale. Only about 10 per cent of the victims of this type of crime are insured, so that the actual losses from burglary alone probably amount to \$100,000,000, or about \$1 for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Mr. Joyce cited what he believed to be the thirteen principal causes of the present crime wave.

1. "Lack of adequate police protection in many places, he said, was due to the reduction of budgets for this purpose by 'crank' reformers."

2. "Much greater opportunity exists than before the war. Billions of newly issued negotiable securities have been broadly acclaimed and handled by untried employees. These securities have been insufficiently guarded and are largely known about by the criminal classes who are always alert, looking for weak points. Remember that 'opportunity makes the thief.'"

3. "Published reports of great profits have created much discontent, and even in some cases a revengeful spirit. An understanding by all classes of how heavily the Federal Administration is taxing excess war profits will go far to allay this crime-breeding dissatisfaction."

4. "Criminals inevitably drafted into the war have returned more reckless regarding their own and other people's lives and are more skilled in attacking guarded and unguarded places."

5. "High war wages have naturally led to extravagant living standards. Now, when wages and employment are decreasing, the newly acquired expensive tastes remain. Living from hand to mouth is, of course, a first step toward crime, as 'necessity knows no law.'"

6. "Thousands of men and women who were attracted to large business centers by high wages during the war and who like the city life, have refused to return to their original homes in small towns and on farms. Many of them are unemployed or are working discontentedly for wages insufficient to satisfy their desires. Such a situation is, of course, obviously crime-fomenting."

7. "Published reports of enormous flotations of investment securities during and after the war have made many people think that they are not getting their share of the nation's wealth and they nurse the thought as a real grievance."

8. "The doctrines of Socialism, Bolshevism, etc., have furnished a false but potent excuse for many recent crimes. Education, although it is the only sure road to national peace and prosperity, seems just now to be producing a surprising number of human beings who feel easier about doing something they know to be wrong if they can find some theory which seems to make it right to do a wrong."

9. "Inadequate accounting methods in business arising out of the building up 'big' business too quickly."

10. "Culpable carelessness in employing without investigation dangerous criminals and ex-convicts, who are employed as clerks, servants, etc."

11. "Lavish and unseemly display of valuables in public places has produced envy and resentment among the unfortunate and evil minded. It also has made robbery easy and has caused serious recent losses both to owners and to insurance companies."

The following table shows the increase from 1910 to 1920 of the amounts paid out by the companies for embezzlement and burglaries:

Year. Embezzlement. Burglaries.

1910. \$1,336,081. \$886,045.

1911. 2,410,201. 1,294,548.

1912. 3,060,348. 2,064,799.

1913. 4,662,804. 3,629,505.

1920. 6,622,813. 10,189,873.

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French Academy Honors Carrel

PARIS, Jun 29.—Dr. Alexis Carrel, the noted American surgeon, has been elected a national associate of the Academy of Medicine. Under the rules of the Academy there may be only twenty national associates, all of whom have heretofore been residents of France.

police force. Of course, it's the big metropolitan cities where crime is rampant. There is no question that an ample police protection would effect a great reduction in the number of crimes."

The lack of adequate police protection in many places, he said, was due to the reduction of budgets for this purpose by "crank" reformers. Aside from prohibition and underpolicing, Mr. Joyce attributed the increase of crime to the following causes:

1. Widespread lessening of respect for law and property following every war. War makes many people more cynical and callous, more indifferent to human suffering and the rights of others. A changed attitude and spirit are greatly needed.

2. "Much greater opportunity exists than before the war. Billions of newly issued negotiable securities have been broadly acclaimed and handled by untried employees. These securities have been insufficiently guarded and are largely known about by the criminal classes who are always alert, looking for weak points. Remember that 'opportunity makes the thief.'"

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Akron, Ohio

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32x4½ 47.30 4.50

33x4½ 48.40 4.65

34x4½ 49.65 4.75

33x5 58.90 5.55

35x5 61.90 5.80

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Safety 30x3 13.45

Safety 30x3½ 16.00

Safety 32x3½ \$20.25

Safety 32x4 26.90

Safety 33x4 28.30

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Touring, Coupe and Sedan, \$500 to \$2,000;

Partons—"Right", \$650, \$850, \$1,050; Landaus,

\$500 to \$2,500; Bligh (1920), \$800

\$1,000; Runabouts, Touring, Landaulets, \$700 to

\$2,800; Packard 4 "35" Sedan, \$2,800

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\$1,500; Oldsmobiles ("Sixes"—"Eights"), \$650 up

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